Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 169797
ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12
MCE-00 AID-05 L-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NEA-10 HA-05
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DRAFTED BY PM/SAS:COCECIL:RS
APPROVED BY PM - RICHARD A. ERICSON, JR.
AF/E - KWAUCHOPE
DOD/DSAA - GRUDD
----------025653 052340Z /70
O R 052302Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
USDAO CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO SECDEF WASHDC 0675
HQUSAF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169797

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SU, US

SUBJECT:F-5 LOAS FOR SUDAN

REFS: (A) KHARTOUM 2967; (B) STATE 169146

1. REFS A AND B APPARENTLY CROSSED. REF B INADVERTENTLY DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

2. OUR EFFORTS ON F-5 LOAS HAVE BEEN GUIDED BY DESIRE TO RESPOND TO SUDANESE SENSE OF URGENCY WHICH THEY HAVE ATTACHED TO THIS PROGRAM. IN ADDITION, THE NEED TO ADMINISTER THE FY 78 GLOBAL ARMS SALES CEILING, WITHIN WHICH WE HAVE ALLOCATED ROOM FOR F-5 SALE, NECESSITATES OUR KNOWING
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PAGE 02 STATE 169797

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER SALE WILL GO FORWARD, SO WE CAN PROGRAM CEILING DOLLARS TO OTHER PENDING CASES, IF UNUSED BY SUDAN. CASES ARE CHARGED TO CEILING ONLY AFTER SIGNATURE OF LOA.

3. FOR THIS REASON, AND TO RESPOND TO AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST PARA 4 REF A, AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO OTHER RELE-

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

VANT QUESTIONS, WE ARE DIRECTING MR. SOMMER TO PROCEED TO KHARTOUM AS SCHEDULED REF B. (SOMMER IS, HOWEVER, STILL AWAITING CONFIRMATION OF SEAT ON FLIGHT AZ894 TO KHARTOUM.) IT IS OUR HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR GOS OFFICIALS TO

RECEIVE AMBASSADOR TO MAKE LOA PRESENTATION DURING SOMMER'S STAY, WHICH, DUE TO THE PRESS OF OTHER BUSINESS, WILL NECESSARILY BE BRIEF. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, WE NEVERTHELESS CONSIDER SOMMER VISIT USEFUL IN BRIEFING AMBASSADOR AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF MISSION ON PROGRAM. ADVISE IMMEDIATELY WHETHER OR NOT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO PRESENT LOAS DURING SOMMER'S VISIT.

4. FOR CAIRO: PENDING AMERICAN EMBASSY KHARTOUM RESPONSE, MAJOR LESTER SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DEPART ON SHORT NOTICE BUT SHOULD NOT DO SO UNTIL KHARTOUM CONFIRMS THAT PRESENTATION CAN BE MADE.

5. FYI: SOMMER WILL FILL AMBASSADOR IN ON QUESTIONS, PREVIOUSLY RAISED, BUT THRUST OF REPLIES WILL BE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. REASON FOR REQUESTING DOLS 200 MILLION GUARANTY WHILE FIRST FOUR LOAS TOTAL DOLS 150 MILLION IS THAT LOA SCA INCLUDES CERTAIN AIRCRAFT CONFIGURATION OPTIONS WHICH, WHILE NOT INCLUDED IN THE DOLS 150 MILLION TOTAL, WE CONFIDENTIAL

BELIEVE SUDAN MAY WISH TO SELECT DURING LOA PRESENTATION. THIS WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF RAISING TOTAL COST ESTIMATE OF INITIAL LOA. WE ALSO ANTICIPATE SUDANESE NEED FOR FOLLOW-ON SUPPORT LOAS WHICH MUST BE SUBMITTED IN LATER FISCAL YEARS AND WE DO NOT WISH TO FORCE SUDANESE TO GO TO SAUDIS EVERY TIME THERE IS A COST INCREASE.

B. MR. SOMMER IS CARRYING DUPLICATE COPIES OF ALL LOAS PREVIOUSLY DESPATCHED TO CAIRO FOR FORWARDING TO KHARTOUM.

C. LOA SCA INCLUDED SIDEWINDER MISSILES WHEN DESPATCHED FROM WASHINGTON, WITH A NOTE TO EFFECT THAT SALE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF EXCEPTION TO NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY. THIS APPRAOCH WAS LATER OVERRULED AND INSTRUCTIONS WERE SENT TO CAIRO TO EXCLUDE SIDEWINDERS FROM LOA UNTIL EXCEPTION TO NDP IS GRANTED. EXCLUSION OF SIDEWINDER FROM LOA RESULTED IN DOLS 3 MILLION DIFFERENCE NOTED REF. A. FAVORABLE DECISION ON NDP EXCEPTION IS IMMINENT AND WE ANTICIPATE THAT LOAS CARRIED BY MR. SOMMER WILL INCLUDE SIDEWINDER, WITHOUT RESTRICTIVE NOTE ABOVE. VANCE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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